

Case 441. 65-year-old maintenance technician died from an 18-20 foot fall from a 2-inch by 2-inch square utility beam.

A 65-year-old male maintenance technician died from an 18-20 foot fall from a 2-inch by 2-inch square utility beam. The decedent was welding on a support beam for a rail on a pick and place conveyor while his coworker acted as the ground man. The decedent could not reach an area on the support beam, so he stepped from the 3-foot by 6-foot basket of the Condor Man-lift he was working from onto the utility beam. The decedent finished his welding. His coworker noted that the decedent hung the welding lead on the rail, grabbed the top of the rail with both hands, and put his head down on hands. Seconds later, the decedent's knees buckled and he fell, first striking the top of an exhaust system and then to the concrete floor. The decedent was not wearing a fall protection harness during the welding activities or when he left the basket. Emergency response was called and the decedent was transported to a local hospital where he was declared dead.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious citations to the employer at the conclusion of its investigation.

SERIOUS: AERIAL WORK PLATFORMS, GI PART 58

- RULE 408.15815(1): An employer shall provide each employee who will operate the aerial work platform with instruction and training regarding the equipment before a permit is issued or reissued. Such instruction and training shall include the following:
 - (a) Instruction by a qualified person in the intended purpose and function of each of the controls.
 - (b) Training by a qualified person or reading and understanding the manufacturer's or owner's operating instructions and safety rules.
 - (c) Understanding by reading or having a qualified person explain all decals, warnings, and instructions displayed on the aerial work platform.
 - (d) Reading and understanding the provisions of this sub-rule and sub-rules (1) to (9) of this rule or be trained by a qualified person on their content.

Employees were trained to make their own decision and do not have to get consent when they step out of the basket of the condor lift. That training goes against Safety Rule 408.15883(4).)

- RULE 408.15815(2): An employer shall provide the operator of an aerial work platform with an aerial work platform permit.

There were no aerial work platform permits issued to operators.

- RULE 408.15815(9): The manufacturer's operating instructions and safety rules shall be provided and maintained in a legible manner on each unit by the employer.

No manufacturer's operating instructions were provided on the Condor lift in the facility.

- RULE 408.15836(1): Any occupant of an aerial work platform described in R 408.15802(a) and (c) and figures 1 and 3 shall use a safety harness.

No safety harness was worn while operating the Condor lift.

- RULE 408.15836(4): An employer shall not allow employees to exit an elevated aerial work platform, except where elevated areas are inaccessible or hazardous to reach. Employees may exit the platform with the knowledge and consent of the employer. When employees exit to unguarded work areas, fall protection shall be provided and used as prescribed in construction safety standard Part 45. "Fall Protection", R 408.44501 to R 408.44502.

No fall protection was utilized while employee was standing on square tubing, welding on the *plant area* rails, after climbing out of the Condor lift. (*MIFACE removed the specific area of the plant where the incident occurred*)